Double Track between Surendranagar and Rajkot in Gujarat

3795. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide double track railway line between Surendranagar and Rajkot in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Anantapur

3796. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a weekly Rajdhani Express from Bangalore to New Delhi; and

(b) whether there is any proposal for stoppage of this train at Anantapur instead of Dharmavaram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Frequency of Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani Express has been increased from weekly to bi-weekly from 28.3.97.

(b) No, Sir.

Status of TTEs of Railways

3797. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TTEs of Railways are not considered as running staff;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government plan to revive this matter which was discontinued in 1931?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the extant rules, the expression "Running staff refers to staff whose performance of duties is directly connected with the charge of moving trains. As the Travelling Ticket Examiners are not directly connected with the charge of moving trains, they are not classified as Running staff.

(c) No, Sir.

Linking of North-East region with South-East Asia by rail

3798. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to link the North East region with South East Asia through a rail network to facilitate large-scale foreign participation in this under-developed region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up this matter with China; and

(d) if so, the response of China thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Gauge conversion during Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans

3799. SHRI LAXMAN BANGARU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of conversion of metre gauge, narrow gauge rail lines completed during the Eighth Plan;

(b) the details of conversion of metre gauge, narrow gauge rail lines proposed to be taken up during the Ninth Plan;

(c) whether Government propose to take up the gauge conversion project through private funding; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) A statement containing the details is given as Annexure. *[See* Appendix 180, Annexure No. 80]

(b) The list of lines to be taken up for conversion during the 9th Plan have not yet been finalised.

(c) and (d) Gauge conversion of Mudkhed-Adilabad is being done with private funding through BOLT scheme and that of Hospet-Guntakal line is proposed to be taken up under BOLT scheme.

गुजरात और मध्य प्रदेश में आमान परिवर्तन और विद्युतीकरण कार्य

3800. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार ने नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान पशिमी /मध्य रेलवे के क्षेत्राधिकार के अधीन गुजरात और मध्या प्रदेश के किन-किन स्थानों का आमान परिवर्तन करने और विद्युतीकरण करने का पता लगाया है; और

(ख) उक्त परियोजनाओं के लिए चालू वितीय वर्ष के वजट में सरकार द्वारा कितनी धनराशि का आवंटन किया गया है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): नौवीं योजना के दौरान आमान परिवर्तन के लिए हाथ में ली जाने वाली लाइनों की सूची को अभी अंतिम रूप नहीं दिया गया है ।

उधना-कीकाकुई खण्ड जो गुजरात राज्य में पड़ता है, पश्चिम रेल के उधना-जलगांव रेल विद्युतीकरण परियोजना का हिस्सा है। इस खण्ड को नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में विद्युतीकरण हेतु शामिल किया गया है। जहां तक मध्यप्रदेश राज्य का प्रश्न है, नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान विद्युतीकरण कार्य के लिए फिलहाल किसी भी खण्ड की पहचान नहीं की गई है ।

(ख) मध्य प्रदेश में आमान परिवर्तन और विद्युतीकरण कार्यों के लिए लागू नहीं है। तथापि गुजरात के उधना-जलगांव रेल विद्युतीकरण परियोजना के हिस्से में विद्युतीकरण के लिए 4.15 करोड़ रु. की व्यवस्था की गई है।

Additional Zones for Railways

3801. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going ahead with the creation of additional zones for Railways;

(b) whether the report of the expert group has been received;

(c) whether the problem of resource crunch has been solved; and

(d) the programme for creating the zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of Project Unigauge and construction of the Konkan Railway an Advisors' Committee had been set up whose report has since been received.

(c) Taking the various factors into consideration Government has decided to set up six new zones with headquarters at Bhubaneswar, Allahabad, Hajipur, JaipuT, Bangalore and Jabalpur. Adequate outlay has been provided for setting up of the zones.

(d) The zones have been planned to be set up in a phased manner over a period of 60 months.

Heavy traffic at Ahmedabad Railway Station

3802. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present Ahmedabad railway station is experiencing